

Application No.: 09/994,803
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REMARKS

Claims 1-38 are now pending in the application. Claims 1 and 14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2, 13, 15, 16, 26, and 36 have been amended, and new claims 37-38 added, without introduction of new matter. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The allowance of claims 27-35 and the indication that claims 2-13, 15-26, and 36 define allowable subject matter are noted with appreciation. In response, claims 2, 13, 15, 26, and 36 have been rewritten in independent form, each including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 2-13, 15-26, and 36 are now in condition for allowance.

In addition to the above amendments, claim 16 has been amended merely to correct a typographical error ("has not participate ..." has been changed to "has not *participated* ..."). The scope of the claim is not believed to have been changed by this amendment.

Claims 1 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by the publication US 2001/0003191 to Kovacs et al. This rejection has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1 and 14 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

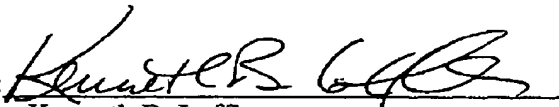
New claims 37 and 38 have been added to the application without introduction of new matter. The text of new claim 37 is the same as that of claim 4 except that claim 37 depends from claim 2 instead of from claim 3. The text of new claim 38 is the same as that of claim 17 except that claim 38 depends from claim 15 instead of from claim 16. Each of new claims 37 and 38 depends from an allowable claim and is therefore patentable over the prior art of record at least for this reason.

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The application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of same is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Potomac Patent Group PLLC

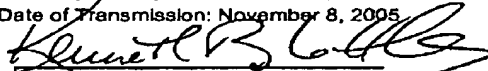
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